WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   An image processing apparatus for processing
an image in accordance with property information for
defining an image processing method for processing
image data of the image, comprising:

inputting means for inputting the image data, key
information used for recognizing alteration of the
image data, and the property information;

judging means for judging from the image data and
the key information input by said inputting means
whether the image data was altered; and

controlling means for controlling an execution of
the image processing method in accordance with a
judgement by said judging means and the property
information.

2.   An image processing apparatus according to
claim 1, further comprising an interface for accessing
a detachable memory wherein the image data, the key
information and the property information are stored in
the detachable memory.

3.   An image processing apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein the property information defines the
image processing method used for executing printing
output.

4. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the property information defines contents of the control to be executed by said controlling means in accordance with the judgement by

5   said judging means.

5. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image data input by said inputting means includes a digital signature, the key information

10 is key information used for the digital signature, and said image processing apparatus further comprises digital signature decrypting means for decrypting the digital signature by using the key information.

15   6. An image processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said judging means executes a judgement process by comparing information obtained by calculating the image data in a predetermined manner with information obtained by said digital signature

20 decrypting means.

7. An image processing method for processing an image in accordance with property information for defining an image data processing method, comprising

25 the steps of:
    inputting image data, key information used for recognizing alteration of the image data, and the

property information;

judging from the image data and the key information input at said inputting step whether the image data was altered; and

5   controlling an execution of the image processing method in accordance with a judgement at said judging step and the property information.

8.   A storage medium storing processor-
10 implementable instructions for controlling a processor to carry out the method on Claim 7.

9.   An image processing system with an interface capable of accessing a memory medium, comprising:

15   information reading means for reading a digital signature of image file data stored in the memory medium, a secret key used for the digital signature, or a public key paired to the secret key, together with the image file data and property information for
20 defining an image processing method for processing image data; and

image output controlling means for outputting an image in accordance with information read by said information reading means.

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10.   An image processing system according to claim 9, further comprising digital signature decrypting

means for decrypting the digital signature of the image file data read by said information reading means by using the public key.

5   11. An image processing system according to claim 9, further comprising calculating means for calculating an image file specific value obtained from the image file data by using one-way function.

10   12. An image processing system according to claim 9, further comprising image file data examining means for examining the image file data in accordance with a data value obtained by said digital signature decrypting means and the value obtained by the

15   calculating means.

      13. An image processing system with an interface capable of accessing a memory medium, comprising:

      memory medium detecting means for detecting a

20   connection of the memory medium to the interface;

      information reading means, responsive to a detection of the connection of the memory medium by said memory medium detecting means, for reading a digital signature of image file data stored in the

25   memory medium, a secret key used for the digital signature, or a public key paired to the secret key, together with the image file data and property

information for defining an image processing method for

processing image data; and

image output controlling means for outputting an

image in accordance with information read by said

5   information reading means.

14.   An image processing system with an interface

capable of accessing a memory medium, comprising:

image file data generating means for generating

10   image file data to be stored in the memory medium;

image file data storing means for storing the

image file data generated by said image file data

generating means in the memory medium;

calculating means for calculating an image file

15   specific value obtained from the image file data by

using a one-way function; and

digital signature generating means for generating

a digital signature by dycrypting the value calculated

by said calculating means by using a secret key stored

20   in the memory medium.

15.   An image processing system according to claim

14, further comprising:

first storing means for storing the digital

25   signature generated by said digital signature

generating means together with property information for

defining an image data processing method for processing

image data in a property area of the memory medium; and

second storing mans for storing the image file

data to be signed in the memory medium.

5   16.   An image processing system according to claim

14, wherein the secret key for decrypting the value

calculated by said calculating means is an apparatus

specific secret key.

10   17.   An image processing system according to claim

14, further comprising secret key generating means for

newly generating a secret key for decrypting the value

calculated by said calculating means, in accordance

with a user definition.

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18.   An image processing method for an image

processing system with an interface capable of

accessing a memory medium, the method comprising the

steps of:

20   reading a digital signature of image file data

stored in the memory medium, a secret key used for the

digital signature, or a public key paired to the secret

key, together with the image file data and property

information for defining an image processing method for

25   processing image data; and

outputting an image in accordance with information

read at said information reading step.

19. An image processing method according to claim
18, further comprising a step of decrypting the digital
signature of the image file data read at said
information reading step by using the public key stored
5   in the memory medium.

20. An image processing method according to claim
18, further comprising a step of calculating an image
file specific value obtained from the image file data
10   by using one-way function.

21. An image processing method according to claim
20, further comprising the steps of:
     decrypting the digital signature of the image file
15   data;
     comparing a value obtained at said digital
signature decrypting step with the value obtained at
the calculating step; and
     examining the image file data in accordance with a
20   comparison result at said comparing step.

22. An image processing method for an image
processing system with an interface capable of
accessing a memory medium, comprising:
25   a memory medium detecting step of detecting a
connection of the memory medium to the interface;
     a reading step, responsive to a detection of the

connection of the memory medium at said memory medium
detecting step, of reading a digital signature of image
file data stored in the memory medium, a secret key
used for the digital signature, or a public key paired

5   to the secret key, together with the image file data
and property information for defining an image
processing method for processing image data; and

outputting an image in accordance with information
read at said reading step.

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23.   An image processing method for an image
processing system with an interface capable of
accessing a memory medium, comprising the steps of:

generating image file data to be stored in the
15   memory medium;

storing the image file data generated at said
image file data generating step in the memory medium;

calculating an image file specific value obtained
from the image file data by using a one-way function;
20   and

generating a digital signature by dycrypting the
value calculated at said calculating step by using a
secret key stored in the memory medium.

25   24.   An image processing method for an image
processing system according to claim 23, further
comprising the steps of:

storing the digital signature generated at said digital signature generating step together with a property file in a property area of the memory medium; and

5   storing the image file data to be signed in an image file area of the memory medium.

      25.   An image processing method according to claim 20, wherein the secret key for decrypting the value

10   calculated at said calculating step is an apparatus specific secret key.

      26.   An image processing method according to claim 20, further comprising a step of newly generating a

15   secret key for decrypting the value calculated at said calculating step, in accordance with a user definition.

      27.   A memory card storing:

      image data file;

20   digital signature information of said image data file;

      secret key information used for the digital signature;

      public key information paired to said secret key;

25   and

      property information defining an image processing method for processing image data.

28. A storage medium storing processor-implementable instructions for controlling a processor to carry out the method on Claim 18.

5   29. A storage medium storing processor-implementable instructions for controlling a processor to carry out the method on Claim 22.

30. A storage medium storing processor-

10   implementable instructions for controlling a processor to carry out the method on Claim 23.